

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07464 012007Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----036151 022200Z /23
R 011121Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8420
INFO USLO PEKING

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7464

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PERP MNUC PK FR US
SUBJ: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING -- INFORMING PRC

REF: PARIS 23772

1. LAST WEEK I SUGGESTED TO FRENCH AMB LEGOURRIEREC THAT I
THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE WERE TO INFORM THE PRC AMB HERE
ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT, AND USG AND FRENCH
DESIRES TO HAVE SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN.
LEGOURRIEREC WAS TAKEN WITH THE IDEA, AND SAID HE WOULD PROCEED
TO INFORM THE PRC AMB.

2. A FEW DAYS LATER PRC AMB LU WEI-CHAO TOOK UNPRECEDENTED STEP
OF ASKING TO CALL ON ME, WHICH HE DID JULY 27. HE SHOWED
CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT PAK FEELINGS OF FRIENDLESSNESS, AND
POSSIBLE PAK WITHDRAWAL FROM CENTO, AND QUESTIONED ME CLOSELY
ABOUT NEWSOM VISIT AND PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION OF US ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS AND MILITARY SALES. WHEN HE BEGAN QUIZZING ME ABOUT
LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF CHANGE IN FRENCH POSITION, I WENT
AHEAD AND TOLD HIM WHAT FRENCH HAD TOLD ME HERE CONCERNING RECENT
FRENCH DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP, GENERAL ZIA'S LETTER TO GISCARD,
ETC. STRESSING THAT FRENCH HAD MADE OWN DECISION
INDEPENDENTLY, I EMPHASIZED THAT USG WANTED TO BE IN POSITION TO

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ASSIST PAKISTAN, THAT DURING NEWSOM VISIT HE HAD REPEATEDLY
URGED PAKS TO CONSIDER WHETHER NOW IS THE TIME TO PRESENT SOVS
WITH GIFT OF DISSOLUTION OF CENTO, AND THAT WHEN AND IF
REPROCESSING PLANT IS CANCELLED OR POSTPONED INDEFINITELY USG
INTENDED TO RE-START AID PROGRAMS AND MILITARY SALES -- PROVIDING
GOP DID NOT MAKE UNWISE STATEMENTS OR MOVES TOWARD A BOOTSTRAP
REPROCESSING PLANT. I SUGGESTED THAT SINCE PRC WANTED TO SEE

INCREASED INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN, IT SEEMED TO ME APPROPRIATE FOR CHINESE TO ADVISE PAKS TO AVOID ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS THAT COULD, IF THEY LOSE THE PLANT, ALSO RESULT IN LOSING THE BENEFITS OF NOT HAVING THE PLANT. PRC AMB WAS GREATLY INTERESTED AND SEEMED SYMPATHETIC.

3. ON JULY 29 I MET FRENCH AMB AND TOLD HIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAD CAUSED ME TO GO AHEAD WITH BRIEFING PRC AMB ABOUT FRENCH POSITION, AND ASKING FOR PRC SUPPORT IN CALMING PAK REACTION. LEGOURRIERE HAD NOT YET INFORMED PRC AMB, BUT DID NOT SEEM DISTURBED THAT I HAD DONE SO.

4. TODAY, AUGUST 1, I SAW FRENCH AMB AGAIN. HE SAID HE HAD TODAY BRIEFED PRC AMB, AND ALSO GOT IMPRESSION OF SYMPATHETIC ACCEPTANCE, ALTHOUGH PRC AMB HAD (HE THOUGHT IN LOW-KEY RITUALISTIC WAY) ONCE REFERRED TO ADVISABILITY OF STICKING TO COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS. PRC AMB HAD, AS HE HAD WITH ME, STRESSED NEED TO SUPPORT PAKS SO AS TO DISSUADE THEM FROM QUITTING CENTO AND FLIRTING WITH SOVS.

5. COMMENT: I AM REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT PRC WILL MAINTAIN STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY, AND WILL SEE IT IN PRC INTEREST TO HELP PREVENT ILL-CONSIDERED PAK REACTION WHEN FRENCH FINALLY TELL PAKS THAT THE PLANT IS NOT GOING TO BE BUILT.
HUMMEL

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